

Covering Kids with Special Needs

Project Summary

Purpose

This project seeks to significantly expand coalition-building efforts focused on Children with special health needs (CSHN) and to link with the larger Covering Kids (CK) coalition to promote broader understanding of issues facing CSHN in accessing health care.

We will work with Wisconsin's Title V CSHN Program and their five Regional CSHN Centers to initiate or sustain local HealthWatch committees, which will

- Gather information on issues facing CSHN,
- Provide resources and strategies to address the issues, and
- Promote networking and collaboration between parents and a spectrum of service providers across Wisconsin.

Committee participation will create opportunities for parents of CSHN to share information, monitor and improve health coverage programs, and receive training, guidance, and support to develop leadership skills. Local committees will connect to and inform public policy through a new CKSN statewide coalition linked to the existing CK coalition. Regional Center involvement and the emphasis on parent and community involvement will help create a sustainable model for ongoing networking among parents, service providers, and policymakers working in partnership to address systemic issues.

CKSN goals are to:

- 1) Increase health care access for CSHN by decreasing the number of un/under-insured;
- 2) Develop a collaborative and supportive network for parents, community professionals and policymakers; and
- 3) Promote public policy strategies and initiatives to decrease uninsured and/or increase coverage of underinsured.

Several objectives relate to these goals:

- 1) Creating regional HealthWatch groups and a statewide coalition of key stakeholders with taskforces on:
 - a) coverage, access and coordination;
 - b) quality of care and medical home;
 - c) outreach and enrollment;
 - d) data and evaluation.
- 2) Developing public policy initiatives around health insurance and coverage programs.
- 3) Providing direct health benefits counseling services and tracking client encounters to identify systemic problems.
- 4) Creating training and educational materials around the 2010 six core outcome measures.